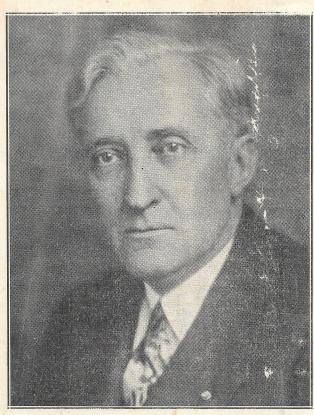
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"AMERICA BEWARE!"

"The World is Sitting on a Volcano Financially and Otherwise."

(Quoted from a statement dated October 28, 1928, made by)



FRANK ELBRIDGE WEBB, of California
THE FARMER-LABOR PARTY
Presidential Candidate in 1928
Who Now Adds,

"THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER AMERICA PREPARE"

May, 1931

"THE REPU

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All courageous and unite and organize

THE CONS

Washington, D. C., May 29, 1931.

"THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER"

INTRODUCTION

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While the Republican and Democratic Parties and leaders in the 1928 campaign each guaranteed continued prosperity by their high tariff prescriptions, the Farmer-Labor Party leader, Frank Elbridge Webb of California, on October 28, 1928, told the people the truth in these words:

"THE WORLD IS SITTING ON A VOLCANO FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE. AMERICA BEWARE!"

The day of the bunco artists should end in 1936 willy-nilly. The American people have it in their power to prepare in 1932 for that end, or they can continue to follow "blind leaders" of whom the Good Book says:

"Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."

We read and hear much these days about "the failure of our leaders." It is true that the Republican and Democratic Parties and their leaders have miserably failed the farmers and the masses of the people, hoaxed and "kidded" them, with false statements, foolish promises and equally foolish predictions of returning prosperity. Such charges cannot be sustained against the Farmer-Labor Party, or against its national leader, Frank Elbridge Webb of California, who once more tells the people the truth, a rare commodity in political life, in the article entitled, "The Republic is in Danger."

All courageous and progressive-thinking voters should now unite and organize

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY

Washington, D. C., May 29, 1931. FRANK LOWSON,
Member of The National Committee
FARMER-LABOR PARTY.

THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER

by

FRANK ELBRIDGE WEBB

To those who feel sure of, or hope for, the continuation of the old order of things, to those who are apathetic on the subject, and to those who have the patience and courage to read even half way through this article, who may think that I am an alarmist, I address but one question. Was I an alarmist on October 28, 1928, when I issued a written statement containing the following words:

> "THE WORLD IS SITTING ON A VOLCANO FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE. AMERICA BEWARE!"?

To that statement I now add: THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER! AMERICA PREPARE!

THE CAPITALISTIC AND COMMUNISTIC SYSTEMS

In my opinion both the capitalistic and communistic economic systems as now operated will have to be either radically modified or partially or completely abandoned within the next decade or two. The capitalistic system as now operated, based upon the gold standard, will be changed because of the increasing concentration of wealth in the hands of the few. Before these changes are accomplished, the communistic economic results, combined with other world causes, economic and political, in my opinion, will undermine the world economic conditions, especially those in the capitalistic countries.

The principal cause of past wars between nations has been stated to be economic. As compared with the magnitude of the present economic battle between the communistic and capitalistic systems and countries, all past economic or trade causes of wars have been comparatively limited as to area and effect. In my humble opinion, the conclusion to the present economic battle between the two systems will be that which has so frequently followed on the heels of minor economic or trade struggles in

the past, viz., actual warfare between nations.

The present uncertainty as to the ultimate result of the communistic experiment, and as to its ultimate effect on the capitalistic system, is adding to the uncertain state of mind of the world and is but one factor contributing to the increasing chaotic world conditions economically and politically. During the period of transition to the time of modification or partial or complete abandonment of the capitalistic and communistic systems as presently operated there will unquestionably be serious

unemployment even in the ing the present and future was to minimize such suff 1928 and 1930 demanded of unemployment insuran procrastination or delay crime against the masses will surely be held respons

On October 28, 1928.

"THE WORLD IS FINANCIALLY A BEWARE!"

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unemployment even in the United States of America. Foreseeing the present and future suffering of the masses of the people, it was to minimize such suffering that the Farmer-Labor Party in 1928 and 1930 demanded the immediate enactment of a system of unemployment insurance and old age pensions. Any further procrastination or delay in enacting such legislation will be a crime against the masses of the people for which its perpetrators will surely be held responsible by the people of the United States.

THE FUTURE

On October 28, 1928, I stated in writing to the public: "THE WORLD IS SITTING ON A VOLCANO FINANCIALLY AND OTHERWISE. AMERICA BEWARE!"

That was true in 1928. It is truer now in 1931. The eruptions have merely started. The future sequence of events in my opinion can be forecast with a reasonable degree of accuracy. I think it will be somewhat as follows:

(1) Continued world disturbance economically and politically; (2) Increasing paralysis of the functions of the civil governments of the world resulting in increasing lawlessness and disorder; (3) Another European war accompanied by another period of borrowing by governments, inflation of prices, and further strain upon the economic structure and gold standard basis, to be followed by (4) Another period of depression of world trade accompanied by unemployment and suffering making inevitable either the modification or the partial or complete abandonment of both the capitalistic and communistic systems as now operated, and thereafter, (5) a complete reconstruction of the economic and political fabric of the world.

The forces of destruction are at work now. They are in their first stages of operation. The next stages are but a few years ahead of us. Probably little or nothing will convince the great mass of the people that such a future course of events is possible, and no tin god politician in America is likely to admit it publicly until after election day 1932 at least. As each successive crash comes they may think the worst is over, whether that crash be in Wall Street market prices, commodity prices, wages, political revolutions abroad, or droughts, or floods, or earthquakes or war. The American politicians may even continue making false promises and foolish predictions that the depression will be over in sixty or ninety days, and they surely will continue their cries of "peace, peace," when there is no peace.

Let the people awake now from their dreams of security and from the worship of their false gods—The Republican Party,

the Democratic Party, and gold, none of which will save them in the years just ahead of us. The need and the time has come for the organization of a new party, the Constitutional Party, to rid the country of political hypocrisy, sham, empty words, and foolish promises impossible of performance, as well as to rid it of spineless tin god politicians with an oversupply of blarney and blatherskite talk, "playing politics with human misery."

The Constitutional Party if placed in power cannot guarantee the future prosperity so light-heartedly, stupidly and falsely promised by the Republican and Democratic Parties in 1928 and inferentially at least insinuated by these parties in 1930, in their bids for popular favor. The Constitutonal Party can only hope to, and may be able to, do three things:

(1) Minimize the suffering of the masses of the people resulting from unemployment present and future by enacting immediately proper laws providing unemployment insurance, old age pensions and other necessary economic and labor legislation; (2) To safeguard the Constitution and the Union from the attacks of its enemies, within and without the United States, and (3) After the period of destruction is over to initiate the necessary processes of reconstruction.

THE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE

In 1931 a progressive group of Senators and Representatives and others met in Washington for the purpose of formulating a program of progressive legislation which they hope to get the next Congresss to enact into law; a Congress which is practically evenly divided between the Republican and Democratic parties. Their viewpoint of present conditions and their proposed measures are similar in some respects to those expressed herein. Their viewpoint of the future conditions may not be the same as those expressed herein. If they are not, then I fear that these Progressives do not fully realize the gravity of the situation and of the coming conditions. The increasing chaotic conditions of the world, economically, politically, mentally and spirtually, more and more will operate to paralyze the efforts of well meaning individuals in all walks of life to stem the world currents of falsehood, corruption and political horse-play of which the present superstructure of our so-called political civilization is largely composed. These currents are running too strong in the streams of the Republican and Democratic parties to permit of the reformation from within of these two outworn political instruments. Neither of these major parties, nor their leaders, can get cohesion within themselves on the measures they allege to be their party platforms, such as prohibition, the tariff, farm relief, and unemployment. A house divided against itself cannot stand. Each of the major parties is so divided now in 1931.

While these Progreare on the right track in my opinion they are to reform from within to partial failure in the progressive progragainst hope, are merbroken. In my opiniof or the maximum allethe American people be political party,

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While these Progressive Republican and Democratic leaders are on the right track with many of their proposed measures, in my opinion they are doomed to complete failure if they hope to reform from within the Republican or Democratic Party, and to partial failure in their efforts to get these parties to enact the progressive program into law. These progressives, hoping against hope, are merely grasping at a straw which is already broken. In my opinion the greatest hope in the political field for the maximum alleviation of the sufferings of the masses of the American people between 1932 and 1940 lies in a strong new political party,

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY.

The Constitution of the United States is the highest expression, in the field of government of men, of the best and truest principles of liberty. It is the highest and best statement of principles for the establishment on this earth, of government of the people, by the people, for the people. God willing, it shall not be allowed to perish from the earth if the people of these United States have courage enough to clean their political house of both these present major four-flushing political parties by electing to office in 1932 the candidates of

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY.

That result of the 1932 election on the programme partially indicated herein will constitute a mandate for the immediate recording of the will of the people by nation-wide referendum on the question of prohibtion, the results of which should and will enable the Congress to legislate on the prohibition question and thereby permit the forces of law and order to compel obedience to the laws of our land. If need be, these forces of law and order should include both the Army and Navy of the United States as well as all state and other federal forces. No measure shall be left untaken by the Constitutional Party to preserve the Union and to perpetuate it for our children's children.

THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER NOW. While unemployment and prohibition are extremely important issues now, the paramount issue in my opinion is PRESERVE THE CONSTITUTION AND THE UNION or suffer chaos, with increasing crime and corruption. I repeat,

THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER—NOW—SERIOUS DANGER! AMERICA PREPARE IMMEDIATELY!

THE PAST

On October 28, 1928, as Farmer-Labor Party candidate for president of the United States, I issued a written statement to the press, which was not published by it, on "Foreign Affairs and the Money Power" from which I quote as follows:

"That concentration (of wealth in the hands of the

few) must cease now or trouble is inevitable.

"Sir George Paish, the eminent British economist, recently warned the world that the present credit system cannot continue to be expanded much longer without a collapse. There are other ominous signs of danger ahead in many places. I warn the nation now that things today are not what they may appear on the surface nor what the controlled press would have our people believe."

"THE WORLD IS SITTING ON A VOLCANO FINAN-CIALLY AND OTHERWISE. AMERICA BEWARE!"

The course of events subsequent to October, 1928, has already fully justified the statements made in that document. Such warnings did not sound good to the ears of the optimistic and over-credulous American voters in the 1928 campaign, during which they were fed by the candidates and other speakers of both the Republican and Democratic Parties with over-optimistic and totally unwarranted statements that these parties had the keys, of the gold vaults, which were to open the doors for the American people to walk in and fill their pockets with gold and their stomachs with food. I trust that ere now the people realize the political hoaxes which were played upon them by both the Republican and Democratic Parties in the 1928 campaign. Since that election the unemployed and many others have realized the culpability of the Republican Party for these hoaxes, one of which a Republican "Moses" modernized, by laying the present-day emphasis not on "the full dinner pail," but on "the full garage." But I fear that the people have not fully realized in the same degree the complicity and culpability of the Democratic Party therefor. Some evidence of that lack of realization of Democratic complicity is to be found in the results of the 1930 elections in which the Democrats gained by reducing the large Republican majority in the Congress to practically an even break. People seemed to forget that the Democrats in 1928 proposed to do substantially the same things financially as the Republican Party proposed to do, viz., maintain a high tariff permanently. When Congress met, while some of the Democrats protested against increasing the tariff rates on manufactured goods, other Democrats voted for increased rates. Thus the Democratic Party cannot evade some responsibility for the Hoover-Grundy Tariff Act for which the Republican Party is primarily responsible. Short is the memory of man.

A statement on Minnesota in the 1930 National Committee of made on November 1st from which I quote th

"What are the (1930) Merely to thing the Democration a high tariff. sion on the high for their own adv

"My friends, fooled you, misled they were either were scared to te some votes.

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A statement on that subject was made to the voters of Minnesota in the 1930 election campaign by a member of the National Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party in two addresses made on November 1st and 3rd, 1930, over radio station WCCO, from which I quote the following:

"What are the Democrats doing to get into office now? (1930) Merely twitting the Republicans for doing the very thing the Democrats themselves proposed to do, viz., maintain a high tariff. When the Democrats blame the depression on the high tariff, they merely condemn themselves for their own advocacy in 1928 of a high tariff programme.

"My friends, the Republican and Democratic doctors fooled you, misled you and misinformed you in 1928 because they were either (1) blind leaders of the blind, or (2) they were scared to tell you the truth for fear they would lose some votes.

"My friends, our alleged two party system which the Republican and Democratic Parties, and their masters, the Autocrats of Gold and Rum, wish to preserve without adding a third party, is now causing many of you to vote for the Democrats because you blame the Republicans for the depression. The Democrats are just as much to blame as the Republicans for the Hoover-Grundy Tariff. Was it not a Democrat who engineered the unconscionable and disgraceful trade with the Republicans which allowed Grundy to go into the Senate?"

The voters of Minnesota who heard these addresses had their eyes opened to the falsity of the 1930 claims of the Democrats to superior wisdom in 1928. In Minnesota in 1930 the people had the opportunity of voting for the Farmer-Labor Party candidates and they elected the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and one national Congressman from that party, notwithstanding an editorial which appeared in the Minneapolis Tribune in the 1930 campaign, to which the Farmer-Labor Natonal Committeeman replied as follows on November 1, 1930:

"POLITICAL INSANITY"

"The Minneapolis Tribune in a recent editorial entitled 'The Cost of Party Desertion' states:

"'A Democratic Congress and a Farmer-Labor state administration can only bring on years of uncertainty in every economic phase of life, years of doubt and years of waiting.'

"We answer, we have already had one year or more of doubt and waiting under Republican rule. We shall have more years of doubt and waiting whether Congress be Democratic or Republican. To suggest that a Farmer-Labor State Administration in Minnesota will seriously affect the economic conditon of the entire country is the height of political insanity, misrepresentation and desperation.

"The coming years of doubt and waiting and trouble will be due to the world effects of carrying the capitalistic economic system to the extreme of hogging the wealth of the ages by the few, which has resulted in bringing into being the other extreme, the present communistic system in Russia, which carried to the extreme as it is now, is just as bad as the extreme of the capitalistic system. The future years of doubt and waiting will be the results of the Republican high tariff and other Republican policies of seventy years under cover of which the autocrats of gold and rum have executed and almost completed their plans to become WORLD DICTATORS."

In most of the other states the people were driven to vote for the Democratic Party by the proverbial short memory of man and the absence of a strong third party for which to vote. The people have found out that one of their false political gods—the empty name Republican Party—is made of tin with clay foundations. They may be expected to realize soon that their other false political god—the empty name Democratic Party—is also made of tin and has a foundation of quicksand.

On September 7, 1928, I issued a statement on the tariff from which I quote as follows:

"THE TARIFF"

"The Farmer-Labor Party platform is silent on the tariff.

"I do not favor nor will I advocate any immediate legislative changes in the tariff rates * * * * *. I propose, first, to see that the farmers get a square deal by putting them on a par economically with the other protected industries. After that is done, any gradual tariff reductions thought necessary can be made if circumstances permit and if no sudden business upheaval or popular distress will result therefrom.

"If possible we should strike a better balance as between our farming and other protected industries before we begin patching and tinkering with parts of the tariff by legislative changes on the rates. The power now vested in the President to alter rates can be used with discretion in glaring cases of injustice, but in many instances the present rates should not be altered, at least, not until the condition of the farming industry has been alleviated." That statement of agricultural products similar to the protection then existing rates the whole tariff as circum

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That statement contemplated (1) providing tariff rates on agricultural products to give agriculture protection in degree similar to the protection afforded to manufactured goods by the then existing rates thereon, and (2) a gradual reduction of the whole tariff as circumstances permitted over a period of years.

In addition I made a statement on farm relief as follows:

"Whatever reasonable bill may pass Congress even though it be on the lines of the McNary-Haugen Bill, I shall sign it and the question of the constitutionality shall be left to the judicial branch to decide, for I shall not refuse the farmers the relief to which they are now justly entitled by vetoing any such reasonable bill."

I was satisfied in 1928 that a world wide readjustment of prices of commodities was inevitable and that no governmental measures promised by any party could avert that inevitable readjustment. But I was also satisfied that there could be a more equitable distribution of the losses, which would result from that inevitable readjustment, both to relieve distress among the farmers and unemployment among laboring men, which, in my judgment in 1928, were certain to develop later.

With regard to labor and unemployment, I stated on October 28, 1928:

"LABOR"

"The Farmer-Labor Party platform contains the following provision:

"'(6) We favor the abolition of the use of injunctions in labor disputes.'

"Neither the Republican nor Democratic platforms or candidates go that far. They merely dilly-dally with the question of abuse of the injunctive power until they gather in some more votes and then what will they do? What have they done about it for years past? Nothing except investigate and talk. Why? Because they cannot find a workable dividing line.

"The Farmer-Labor platform also provides:

"'We also favor either state provision of work for the unemployed or some practicable feasible method of providing adequate compensation to those unemployed who cannot secure work from employers or from the state. We favor some adequate practical feasible method of old age and indigents pensions.'

"I approve of these proposals and something should be done to enact them into law."

In one of his 1930 addresses in Minnesota, the above-referred to National Committeeman of the Farmer-Labor Party stated as follows:

"Well you farmers split your vote in 1928, didn't you? Some to Smith and some to Hoover and where were you before the drought came? You were in the ditch, and even although the Lord God of Hosts Himself, in whom we believe with all our heart and soul, opens the flood gates of heaven and gives you all the rain you want and no more—IN OUR OPINION, YOU ARE GOING TO STAY IN THE DITCH WITH INTERVALS OF SITTING ON THE BANKS OF IT, FOR A PERIOD OF FROM SEVEN TO TEN YEARS MORE, EXCEPT IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER EURO-PEAN WAR. In our opinion, no power short of the Lord God of Hosts can make it otherwise, UNTIL YOU FARMERS AND THE LABORERS TAKE THE SITUATION IN HAND FOR YOURSELVES BY UNITING AND VOTING FOR ONE PARTY NOW, THE FARMER-LABOR PARTY, AND IN 1932 FOR A NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL THIRD PARTY.

"What we ask now is that the American people look the present day conditions in the face, gauge their force, and reason out their consequences and prepare at once to meet the crash which is inevitable. OUR FIRST THOUGHT IS FOR THE MASSES OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW SUFFERING FROM UNEMPLOYMENT AND THOSE WHO MUST INEVITABLY SUFFER DURING THE NEXT TEN YEARS.

"The Farmer-Labor Party demands now on their behalf from all of the political parties ENACTMENT OF COMPLETE AND ADEQUATE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE, OLD AGE PENSIONS, * * * * *. If these measures are not supplied before November, 1932, they will be supplied by a special session of Congress immediately after March 4, 1933, if the American people elect a Congress and President from the Constitutional Party embracing the Farmer-Labor Party and other voters."

Since the 1930 election what has been done by the two major parties to provide the necessary measures of Federal unemployment insurance? Substantially nothing; and what little has been done has been frustrated by either the Republicans or the Democrats "playing politics with human misery," if we are to believe the Republican and Democratic politicians who each accuse the other of that crime.

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PROHIBITION

From a statement, dated September 7, 1928, issued by me as Farmer-Labor Party candidate for President, I quote:

"The facts on prohibition must be faced whatever they may be. I summarize these as follows:

- "(1) Some great benefits have resulted from the prohibition laws.
- "(2) Likewise, some great evils have resulted therefrom.

"It is useless to enumerate either at present, controversy still rages around them. The resulting condition is that the voters are divided into two camps—wet and dry—and no one seems to know how many are wet and how many are dry.

"One thing is certain, i. e., that as long as the 18th amendment and Volstead Act are on the statute books they should be enforced to the limit and if elected President I shall so enforce them. My present idea as to how to enforce them is set forth in the platform of the Farmer-Labor Party as follows:

"'We believe that the Federal Government should destroy all illegal sources of manufacture of alcoholic beverages and that the importation thereof and interstate commerce therein should be prevented by the Federal Government. We also believe that prevention of consumption thereof should be undertaken by the respective state authorities and subdivisions thereof.'

"The mere adoption and enforcement of that program, however, will not be sufficient to solve the present conditions and eradicate the evils from which all of the present troubles arise, and in order to do so, it will, in my opinion, be advisable to take additional steps.

"A referendum vote of the people of each and every state should be taken upon two questions, viz.:

- "(1) Are you in favor of the repeal of the Volstead Act or are you against such repeal?
- "(2) Are you in favor of the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or are you against such repeal?

"When the results of that referendum are known, the proper legislative measures to put into effect the will of the people as expressed in the referendum vote should be put in motion, and enacted into law by constitutional methods so that the will of the people may prevail."

"It is impossible at this time to say exactly what should be done until a referendum vote of each state, nation-wide on the same day if possible, has been taken. One thing is certain, i. e., it is high time that something is done to find the solution to the present dreadful condition of lawlessness and disrespect of all law and order, part of which undoubtedly arises from contempt for the prohibition law.

"I AM AGAINST THE RETURN OF THE SALOON IN ANY FORM."

On state rights I wrote on September 7, 1928:

"The program to have each state stop the illegal consumption of alcoholic beverages within its own borders is proposed, because each state has a part to play and an obligation to perform. In my opinion, that obligation should not be evaded by the state directly or indirectly, and its duties thereby be thrown on the Federal Government.

"There are other matters no doubt, in which the rights of the states may have been infringed and which should now be corrected. There is now a tendency to too much centralization of authority at Washington, and in the Federal Government, and I consider a policy such as that will result in disaster. What should be done to change it is a matter for careful consideration by the best minds of the country. In the short time at my disposal now in writing this statement, it is impossible for me to be more specific on this matter, except to say that the Federal Government should not be doing what each state can do for itself. It is a complicated matter and I believe the divisions of authority as between the Federal and State Governments needs reviewing and readjustment before more serious conditions arise."

In 1931 the press now tells us that numerous political leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties are desirous of omitting from the platforms of these parties any reference whatever to prohibition but to lay all the emphasis they can upon the economic and unemployment questions. These political leaders of both parties either know, or are afraid, that the prohibition question is likely to split their particular party into two sections and cause such uncertainty as to the result of the 1932 elections as to be dangerous for these parties.

What can be the dominating motive of such a policy? It is this. Get our party into office at any cost and by any means.

Are the American Roosevelt once asked, Republican and Democ politicians to hoax ther enough courage to swe their corrupt machines

I repeat, I advise ganize

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Washington, D. C., May 29th, 1931. y exactly what should ach state, nation-wide taken. One thing is ething is done to find andition of lawlessness t of which undoubtedbition law.

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of such a policy? It cost and by any means.

Are the American people "spineless shrimps," as Theodore Roosevelt once asked, to allow these two "gay deceivers," the Republican and Democratic parties, in the hands of their tin god politicians to hoax them once more in 1932? Or have the people enough courage to sweep these "blind leaders of the blind" and their corrupt machines into the discard where they belong now?

I repeat, I advise the American people immediately to organize

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PARTY

Washington, D. C., May 29th, 1931.

FRANK ELBRIDGE WEBB.

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